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Soaring through the blue skies Birds of Aruba



Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez

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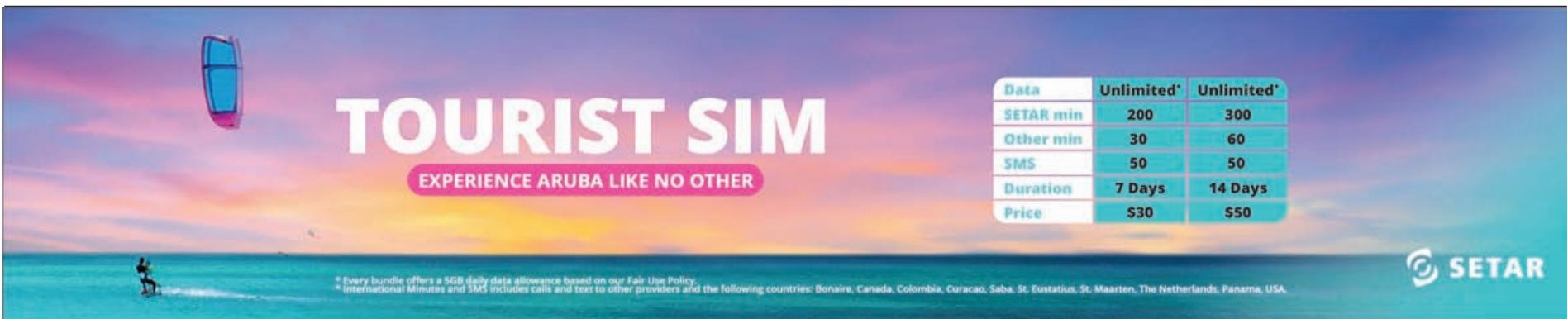
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SETAR

Homeland Security chief says travelers with no REAL ID can fly for now, but with likely extra steps

By REBECCA SANTANA and OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Travelers who haven't obtained a REAL ID by this week's deadline received assurances from the head of Homeland Security that they will be able to fly after additional identity checks. Her comments came Tuesday as people were waiting in long lines outside of government buildings from California to Chicago trying to update their IDs before the long-delayed deadline.

Kristi Noem told a congressional panel that 81% of travelers already have IDs that comply with the REAL ID requirements. She said security checkpoints will also be accepting passports and tribal identification when the deadline hits Wednesday.

Those who still lack an identification that complies with the REAL ID law "may be diverted to a different line, have an extra step," Noem said. "But people will be allowed to fly," she said. "We



People line up to apply for Real ID at a Real ID Supercenter in downtown Chicago, Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

Associated Press

will make sure it's as seamless as possible."

The Transportation Security Administration warned people who don't have the REAL ID to show up early and be prepared for advanced screening to avoid causing delays.

"I do not have a belief that

this will cause people to miss their flights if they take that additional time in," said Thomas Carter, the TSA's Federal Security Director in New Jersey. "I think there's that self-responsibility of the law that they need to know, give themselves that extra time, and if they do

that, they shouldn't have an issue."

Across the country, government offices extended their hours to help meet the demand. But despite that, some people waited for hours Tuesday to get a REAL ID ahead of the long-delayed deadline.

Renel Leggett, a college student from West Chester, Pennsylvania, spent hours getting her REAL ID and was not happy about it.

"I've been out here for three hours to get one ID when I've already had one that should have lasted me until about 2029," Leggett said. "You have to do it. But it feels like a waste of time," she said.

REAL ID is a federally compliant state-issued license or identification card that Homeland Security says is a more secure form of identification. It was a recommendation by the 9/11 Commission and signed into law in 2005.

The commission recommended the government set security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and IDs.

It was supposed to be rolled out in 2008. But the implementation has been repeatedly delayed. Besides needing a REAL ID to fly domestically, people will also need one to access certain federal buildings and facilities. □

Search halted with seven missing after boat thought to be carrying migrants capsized off San Diego



A Del Mar lifeguard looks over a capsized boat on the beach Monday, May 5, 2025, in Torrey Pines State Beach in San Diego, Calif.

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard has suspended its search for seven people who went missing after a boat believed to be carrying migrants capsized off the San Diego coast, officials said Tuesday. The search effort stopped late Monday after crews combed the area via helicopter and a cutter for hours following the early-morning capsizing of the boat, which killed at least three people whose bodies were recovered and injured at least four others who were rescued and taken to a hospital, Petty Officer Hunter Schnabel told The Associated Press. Nine people were initially reported miss-

ing, but two were later found and detained, Schnabel said. He didn't know which agency detained the individuals or why. The U.S. Border Patrol did not immediately respond to an email asking if it was involved. It isn't clear if any of the seven people who were reported missing made it to shore on their own and left the area. Schnabel said they will be considered missing or unaccounted for unless there is a new development. Petty Officer Chris Sapppay said it isn't known where the boat was coming from before it flipped shortly after sunrise about 35 miles (56 kilometers) north of the Mexico border. □

Supreme Court allows Trump ban on transgender members of the military to take effect, for now

By MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed President Donald Trump's administration to enforce a ban on transgender people in the military, while legal challenges proceed.

The court acted in the dispute over a policy that presumptively disqualifies transgender people from military service and could lead to the expulsion of experienced, decorated officers.

The court's three liberal justices said they would have kept the policy on hold.

Just after beginning his second term in January, Trump moved aggressively to roll back the rights of transgender people. Among the Republican president's actions was an executive order that claims the sexual identity of transgender service members "conflicts with a soldier's commitment to an honorable, truthful, and disciplined lifestyle, even in one's personal life" and is harmful to military readiness.

In response, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth issued a policy that gave the military services 30 days to figure out how they would seek out and identify transgender service members to remove them from the force.

"No More Trans @ DoD," Hegseth wrote in a post on X following Tuesday's Supreme Court order.

Three federal judges had ruled against the ban.

In the case the justices acted on Tuesday, U.S. District Court Judge Benjamin Settle in Tacoma, Washington, had ruled for seven long-serving transgender military members who say that the ban is insulting and discriminatory and that their firing would cause lasting damage to their careers and reputations. A prospective service member also sued. The individual service members who challenged the ban together have amassed more than 70 medals in 115



The Supreme Court at sunset in Washington, Feb. 13, 2016.

Associated Press

years of service, their lawyers wrote. The lead plaintiff is Emily Shilling, a Navy commander with nearly 20 years of service, including as a combat pilot who flew 60 missions in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

The Trump administration offered no explanation as to why transgender troops, who have been able to serve openly over the past four years with no evidence of problems, should suddenly be banned, Settle wrote. The judge is an appointee of Republican President George W. Bush and is a former captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps.

Settle imposed a nationwide hold on the policy and a federal appeals court rejected the administration's emergency plea. The Justice Department then turned to the Supreme Court.

The policy also has been blocked by a federal judge in the nation's capital, but that ruling has been temporarily halted by a federal appeals court, which heard arguments last month. The three-judge panel, which includes two judges appointed by Trump during his first term, appeared to be in favor of the administration's position.

In a more limited ruling, a

judge in New Jersey also has barred the Air Force from removing two transgender men, saying they showed their separation would cause lasting damage to their careers and reputations that no monetary settlement could repair. The LGBTQ rights group Lambda Legal called the high court order a devastating blow to dedicated and highly qualified service members. "By allowing this discriminatory ban to take effect while our challenge continues, the court has temporarily sanctioned a policy that has nothing to do with military readiness and everything to do with prejudice. □



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Declassified intelligence memo contradicts Trump's claims linking gang to Venezuelan government

By DAVID KLEPPER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A newly declassified U.S. intelligence assessment confirms that analysts at American spy agencies found no coordination between Tren de Aragua and the Venezuelan government, contradicting statements the Trump administration used to justify invoking the Alien Enemies Act and deporting Venezuelan immigrants.

The redacted memo from the National Intelligence Council said there was no indication that Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro or other senior government officials are directing the actions of Tren de Aragua, a gang that originated in a prison in Venezuela. That is even as some mid- to low-level Venezuelan officials may have ties to the gang for financial gain, the document says.

"While Venezuela's permissive environment enables TDA to operate, the Maduro regime probably does not have a policy of cooperating with TDA and is not directing TDA movement to and operations in the United States," the memo reads. "Furthermore, most of the IC judges that intel-



The relatives of Venezuelan migrants in the U.S. who were flown to a prison in El Salvador by the U.S. government who alleged they were members of the Tren de Aragua gang, protest outside of the United Nations building in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

Associated Press

ligence indicating that regime leaders are directing or enabling TDA migration to the United States is not credible."

Trump has invoked the Alien Enemies Act to speed the deportations of people his administration has labeled members of the gang. The 18th century wartime law was created to give the president the power to imprison or deport noncitizens

in a time of war. It has been used three times, most recently when Japanese Americans were detained during World War II.

Tren de Aragua has been linked to a series of kidnappings, extortion and other crimes throughout the Western Hemisphere. Those activities are tied to a mass exodus of millions of Venezuelans as their country's economy unraveled over

the past decade. The National Intelligence Council helps to coordinate the work of the nation's intelligence services and its conclusions reflect the findings of individual agencies.

While the assessment found no evidence of significant coordination between Maduro and the gang, it noted that FBI analysts had reason to believe some

Venezuelan officials may have helped some gang members move to the U.S. and other countries "to advance what they see as the Maduro regime's goal of destabilizing governments and undermining public safety," according to the assessment.

A spokesperson for Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard rejected claims that the assessment contradicted the White House and noted that it did find some ties between mid- and low-level officials in Maduro's government and the gang.

Gabbard's office, which oversees and coordinates the work of the nation's 18 intelligence agencies, "fully supports the assessment that the foreign terrorist organization, Tren De Aragua, is acting with the support of the Maduro Regime, and thus subject to arrest, detention, and removal as alien enemies of the United States," the spokesperson, Alexa Henning, said in a statement.

The assessment, which includes significant redactions, was released after the Freedom of the Press Foundation filed an open records request. □

Wildfires burn thousands of acres on tribal lands in North Dakota

By JACK DURA
Associated Press
BISMARCK, N.D. (AP)

Crews have been fighting

at least 16 wildfires throughout North Dakota in the last several days, including several large fires still burning



In this photo released by the Civil Air Patrol, wildfires burn in the Turtle Mountain area of North Dakota, Monday, May 5, 2025.

Associated Press

Tuesday across wooded areas and grasslands on the Turtle Mountain Reservation near the Canadian border. Dry and breezy conditions before the spring green-up haven't helped the situation. Much of the state is in some level of drought, including a swath of western North Dakota in severe or extreme drought, according to a recent map by the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Numerous agencies including the North Dakota Forest Service and fire departments have responded to the fires. National Guard Black Hawk helicopters have dropped water, saving homes. Officials requested fire engines from as far as Montana and South Dakota. Tribal mem-

bers with buckets and hoses sprang into action to fight the flames.

"It's inspiring that our people can rise up and help each other out like that," Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribal Chair Jamie Azure said Tuesday.

Three distinct fires that have been joining and separating have burned about 4,200 acres (1,700 hectares) in the Turtle Mountain area, according to the state Department of Emergency Services.

Most of the fires have been north of Belcourt, in the northern part of the Turtle Mountain Reservation, said Jenna Parisien, recruitment and retention coordinator and spokesperson for the Belcourt Rural Fire Depart-

ment.

"We have several locations where areas have burned, so places were lit up all at once, and with the unfavorable weather conditions that we have had, areas keep relighting, embers are causing spread to surrounding areas as well," Parisien said.

The fires steadily kicked off on Friday, she said. It wasn't clear how much of the fires were contained.

Three firefighters were treated for exhaustion, dehydration and smoke inhalation, but were doing well, Azure said. One vacant mobile home was believed to be lost, but there were no other injuries or homes lost despite fires in people's yards, he said. □

U.S. imposes sanctions on Myanmar ethnic militia for 'facilitating cyber scams'

BANGKOK (AP) — An ethnic militia in southeastern Myanmar that has been sanctioned by the United States for alleged involvement in human trafficking and online scams on Tuesday denied the accusations.

The U.S. Treasury Department on Monday announced sanctions against the Karen National Army, or KNA, as well as its leader Col. Saw Chit Thu and his sons, Saw Htoo Eh Moo and Saw Chit Chit. They are accused of "facilitating cyber scams that harm U.S. citizens, human trafficking, and cross-border smuggling," according to a Treasury Department statement.

"Cyber scam operations, such as those run by the KNA, generate billions in revenue for criminal kingpins and their associates, while depriving victims of their hard-earned savings and sense of security," said Deputy Treasury Secretary Michael Faulkender. "Treasury is committed to using all available tools to disrupt these networks and hold accountable those who seek to profit from these



Thai soldiers provide security for the transfer of Chinese nationals who had worked at scam centers in eastern Myanmar, on their arrival at Thailand's Mae Sot International Airport, Tak province before being sent back to China on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025.

Associated Press

criminal schemes."

Those who are hired to carry out the scams have often been tricked into taking the jobs under false pretences and find themselves trapped in virtual slavery. The sanctions block the targeted individuals and their companies from accessing money and assets under U.S. control, and prohibit U.S. citizens from providing financial services to them.

Saw Chit Thu has already been sanctioned by the European Union and the U.K. for profiting from scam compounds and human trafficking.

Lt. Col. Naing Maung Zaw, a spokesperson for the KNA which operates as the Karen ethnic minority's official Border Guard Force affiliated with Myanmar's military government said the group's activities are

aimed at regional development and not related to cyber scams.

He described the U.S. sanctions as a deliberate act of abasement by a powerful country over a weaker one. "They are doing it because they can," he told The Associated Press on Tuesday. Local militias in several border regions have de facto control in areas where their minority groups are domi-

nant. The KNA controls Shwe Kokko and some areas in Myawaddy, on the border with Thailand in the state of Kayin, also known as Karen state.

Shwe Kokko and Myawaddy are known havens for criminal syndicates that have forced hundreds of thousands of people in Southeast Asia and elsewhere into helping run online scams, including romantic ploys, bogus investment pitches and illegal gambling schemes. Critics have accused the KNA of being involved in the criminal activities, at least to the extent of providing protection to the scam centers.

Naing Maung Zaw said scam operations were carried out not only in areas controlled by the KNA but also in other places in Myawaddy.

He acknowledged that his group rented land to some businesses holding the property where scam centers were located and said the KNA would continue with its mass repatriation of the foreigners working in scam centers, which it carries out in cooperation with the military government. □

Alberta's premier would allow a citizen-led referendum on separation from Canada

By JIM MORRIS
Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — The premier of Canada's oil-rich province of Alberta said Monday she will hold a referendum on separation from Canada next year if a citizen-led petition reaches the required number of signatures.

Speaking on a livestream address, Danielle Smith said she personally does not support the province leaving Canada and expressed hope of a "path forward" for a strong and sovereign Alberta within a united Canada.

"Should Ottawa, for whatever reason, continue to attack our province as they have done over the

last decade, ultimately that will be for Albertans to decide," she said. "I will accept their judgement." Smith's announcement comes just one week after Prime Minister Mark Carney led the Liberal Party to a fourth consecutive federal government. It also comes as U.S. President Donald Trump continues to threaten Canada with tariffs and talk of the country becoming the 51st state.

Carney and Trump are scheduled to meet in the White House Tuesday.

Smith's United Conservative government recently introduced legislation that, if passed, would reduce the bar petitioners need to meet to trigger a provincial referendum.

The bill would change citizen-initiated referendum rules to require a petition signed by 10 percent of eligible voters in a previous general election down from 20 percent of total registered voters. Applicants would also get 120 days, rather than 90, to collect the required 177,000 signatures.

Smith accused previous federal Liberal governments of introducing different legislations that hamstring Alberta's ability to produce and export oil, which she said has cost the province billions of dollars. She also said she doesn't want the federal government meddling in provincial issues.

"We don't ask for special

treatment or handouts," she said. "We just want to be free to develop and export that incredible wealth of resources we have. Freedom to choose

how we provide health care, education and other needed social services to our people, even if it's done differently than what Ottawa has in mind." □



Premier of Alberta Danielle Smith, accompanied by other Council of the Federation members, speaks to reporters at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, Feb. 12, 2025.

Associated Press

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Turkey thwarted another attack with pagers in Lebanon last year, officials say

By SUZAN FRASER and BAS-SEM MROUE

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's intelligence service thwarted a remote attack using pagers last year in Lebanon, days after similar attacks by Israel killed dozens and wounded thousands, including members of Lebanon's Hezbollah group, a Turkish daily and officials said Tuesday.

Daily Sabah reported that 1,300 pagers and 710 chargers rigged with explosives were confiscated inside a cargo shipment at Istanbul Airport that was on its way to Beirut from Hong Kong.

A Turkish security official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations, confirmed the report but would not provide further details.

In Beirut, Hezbollah's chief spokesman Youssef el-Zein told The Associated Press Tuesday that days after the Sept. 17 pagers attack in



Lebanese soldiers and firefighters gather outside a mobile shop after what is believed to be the result of a walkie-talkie exploding inside it, in the southern port city of Sidon, Lebanon, Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024.

Associated Press

Lebanon and Syria, Hezbollah informed Turkish intelligence that a shipment of pagers was in Turkey and about to be sent to Lebanon.

El-Zein said Turkish authorities confiscated the pagers and most likely destroyed them. He had no further details.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the report.

Israel triggered the Sept. 17 attack when pagers all over Lebanon started beeping. The devices exploded even if a person carrying one failed to push buttons to read an incom-

ing encrypted message. The next day, Israel activated walkie-talkies, some of which exploded at funerals for some of the people who were killed in the pager attacks.

The attacks marked a major escalation in the Israel-Hezbollah war that started after Hamas launched its attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, triggering the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip. Although the Lebanon attack struck many Hezbollah members, civilians were also killed or wounded. At least 37 people were killed, including two children, and some 3,000 were wounded in the two-day explosions. Daily Sabah said that acting on a tip that a shipment of pager devices would be in Istanbul to be delivered to Lebanon two days after the attacks, Turkish intelligence agents launched an operation.

The newspaper said that authorities discovered a

shipment that arrived in Istanbul from Hong Kong one day before the Lebanon explosions. The cargo had 61 boxes and was scheduled to depart from Istanbul to Beirut on Sept. 27 through Istanbul Airport. The cargo was described as a shipment of food choppers, Daily Sabah said. Inside, authorities found 1,300 Gold Apollo brand pagers and 710 desktop chargers. After the pagers attack, Israel expanded the war against Hezbollah with strikes that killed nearly 500 people on Sept. 23, forcing hundreds of thousands to flee their homes. On Sept. 27, Israeli airstrikes on a southern suburb of Beirut killed Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's leader and one of its founding members, in the biggest blow for the Iran-backed group.

The war ended on Nov. 27, when a U.S.-brokered ceasefire went into effect. □

The EU seeks to halt Russian gas imports by the end of 2027 and ban new contracts already this year

By LORNE COOK and SAM

McNEIL

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The Eu-

ropean Union should halt imports of Russian natural gas by the end of 2027 to deprive President Vladimir

Putin of revenue that helps fuel his war on Ukraine, the bloc's executive branch said Tuesday.

Under a detailed plan to be presented next month, the European Commission would seek to ban new gas contracts with Russia by the end of this year and phase out existing ones still in use in the 27-nation EU by the end of 2027.

"Putin has shown that he doesn't mind weaponizing gas," EU Energy Commissioner Dan Jørgensen said as he outlined the plan. "We do not want to fill up his war chest and support his war economy because who knows which countries will be next."

Jørgensen said the EU had

completely cut coal purchases from Russia and drastically lowered oil and gas imports since the war on Ukraine began in 2022, but that 1.8 billion euros (\$2 billion) in energy revenue still reached Moscow every month last year.

"I am a little bit embarrassed that last year we still paid 23 billion euros (\$26 billion) to Russia whilst they are in war with our friends in Ukraine," Jørgensen told reporters in Strasbourg, France. The EU says it has cut gas imports from 45% to 19%, and oil from 27% to 3%, of its prewar levels. □



The gas pumping station at Sudzhe, Russia, seen on Jan. 11, 2009.

(Associated Press Photo/Sergei Chuzavkov, file)



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Infini introduces their new Menu 13!



(Oranjestad)—Infini proudly introduces Menu 13—a bold new culinary journey featuring 8 meticulously crafted courses where local ingredients meet global technique, designed with precision and imagination.

At the helm of Infini is **Chef Urvin Croes**, whose culinary philosophy is rooted in passion, tradition, and

innovation. With experience in Aruba's top hotels and Michelin-starred kitchens across Europe, Chef Urvin is known for creating immersive dining experiences that blend storytelling with elevated cuisine. At Infini—named for "Limitless Possibilities"—he presents boundary-pushing dishes that fuse classic Aruban flavors with contemporary techniques.

Menu 13 is a reflection of Chef Urvin's ongoing mission to elevate Aruba as a culinary destination. Central to this mission is a deep commitment to supporting local talent and producers. Infini proudly collaborates with suppliers who share the same dedication to

quality and sustainability, including:

- Farm a Cure Fungi
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- Happyponics Aruba
- T2PAN
- LOVEmade
- William Jansen
- Mr. Webo

Together, they bring the best of Aruba to the table—one unforgettable dish at a time.

Infini invites everyone to come and savor the 8-course experience of Menu 13, and experience the artistry behind every dish. □

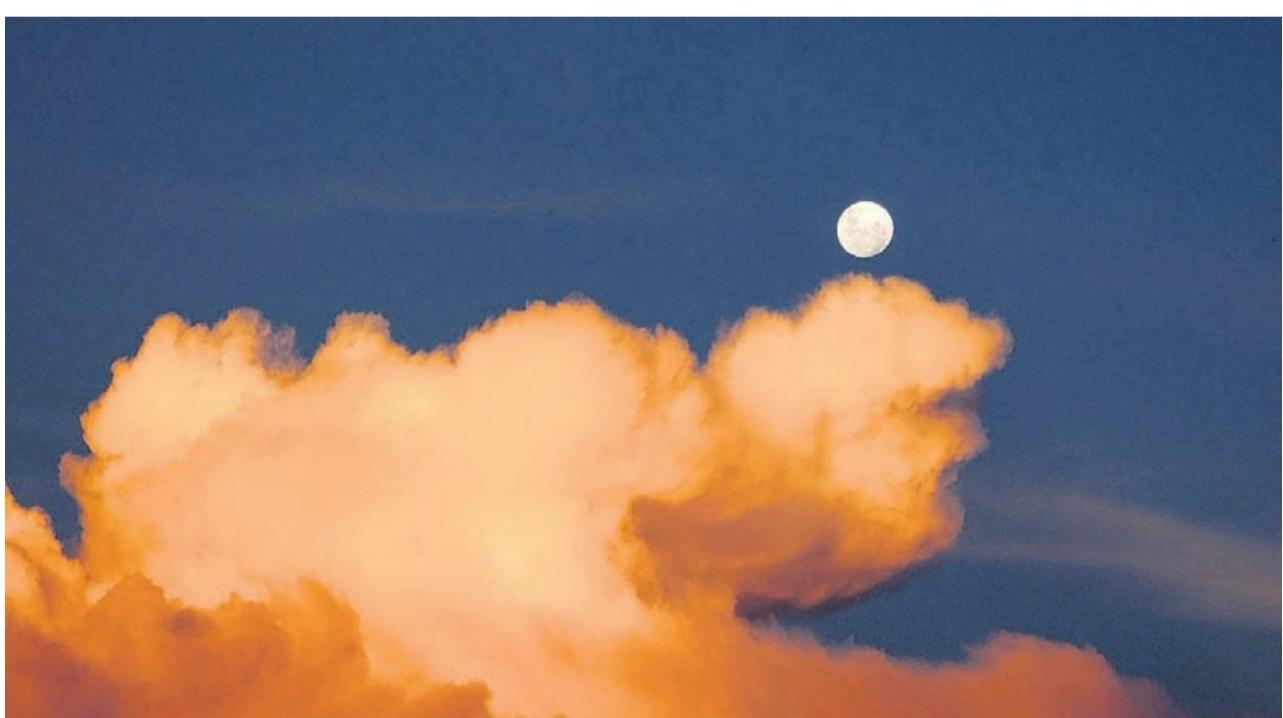


Join ACF's Full Moon Hike!

The Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF) is hosting another one of their famous Full Moon Hikes and is inviting the community to participate for spectacular hike through Aruba's National Park Arikok.

Monday, 12th of May 2025, starting early in the evening at 6:30 PM, hikers will meet at the Arikok Visitor Center at San Fuego, Santa Cruz. The hike will take you through Miralamar, Stairs of Jamanota and Connection Road. Participants are asked to bring a small flashlight. This hike will take approximately 2.5 hours and covers 4.3 Km / 2.7 Mi of distance.

Don't miss on an opportunity to get up close to nature as you trail under the guidance of an experienced ranger. Register using the link <https://forms.office.com/r/GmBtigQv4z>, or call the ACF at 585-1234 for more information. Limited spots available. □





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Discover the New Menu at CAYA House: A Bold Take on Caribbean Flavors



(Oranjestad)—CAYA House Restaurant in Aruba invites you to experience a captivating new chapter in Latin-Caribbean dining with the launch of its latest menu items. Set in a beautifully restored traditional Cunucu house and surrounded by lush tropical greenery, CAYA offers an atmosphere where island heritage and modern culinary artistry come together in perfect harmony.

Rooted in the rich culinary traditions of the Caribbean—including influences from Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Panama, Nicaragua, and Venezuela—CAYA is a celebration of flavor, warmth, and culture.

The new menu is a vibrant tribute to that heritage. Each dish is carefully curated to reflect the spirit of the islands, with a contemporary twist that elevates every bite.

Start with the **Celery Root Milanesa**, a beautifully breaded and fried celery root served with a fragrant Caribbean curry sauce, mango and papaya relish, butter bean and potato curry, and sautéed spinach. It's hearty, elegant, and deeply satisfying.

Seafood enthusiasts will savor the **Corvina**, pan-fried and glazed in pineapple hoisin, accompanied by cucumber and pineapple salsa, banana beurre blanc, and plantain fried rice—a delicate balance of tropical sweetness and



savory depth.

The **Creole Fish** captures the soul of the Caribbean with snapper pan-fried and layered with Creole sauce, avocado salad, tostones, pickled onions, and rice and peas. It's a dish rooted in tradition and rich in flavor.



For something adventurous, the **Beef Tataki Chino Latino** offers a striking fusion of cultures, combining marinated tenderloin with potato and beet salad, piccalilli mayo, fried onion, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, avocado, and a zesty Maggi seasoning vinaigrette.

And for those who crave bold spice and complexity, the **Jerked Tuna** delivers with a jerk crust, passionfruit leche de tigre, kefir lime oil, annatto oil, aji picante, orange crème, cilantro, red

onion, and crispy baby calamari—an unforgettable dish that pushes the boundaries of traditional island fare.

At CAYA, every meal is an experience—a celebration of life, flavor, and connection. Whether you're planning an intimate dinner or a lively gathering, CAYA promises an evening full of memorable moments.□

Reserve your table now and taste the new flavors of CAYA. Call +297-699 39 82 to book.

Place names in San Nicolas and their origins

(Oranjestad)--If you're ever taking a tour of Aruba, San Nicolas would definitely be on your itinerary. From relaxing on the white, sandy beaches of Baby and Roger's Beach, to exploring the prehistoric caves of Quadirikiri and Fontein, you are taking in a full view of what San Nicolas has to offer. But did you know that you are also passing through areas whose names have historical origins? Here are a few place names in San Nicolas and their origin story.

Sero Colorado

On your way to Baby or Roger's Beach, you'll pass by the famous Red Anchor at what was once the entrance to the Colony residential community and be greeted with red soiled hills by the coast. This is Sero Colorado. Named after the 30-meter, deep red, limestone hill, "Sero Colorado" translates to "Col-

ored Hill". Sero Colorado has deep historical ties with the once-thriving phosphate industry in the area. Matter of fact, there are still underground shafts and passages deep in Sero Colorado from the time of phosphate mining. In 1958, the refinery at the time, Lago, adopted this name for the residential section of its employees.

Vader Piet

Another well visited area, Vader Piet is located in the Arikok National Park. Recognizable sites within this area includes the Wind Mills and the Quadirikiri Cave. The origin of this name is part historical and speculation, as there are slight deviations from what actually happened.

In 1829, Pieter Lampe was a planter and the person responsible for governing this remote area. As the

story goes, Pieter was well known and beloved for his kindness and good treatment of his employees, and was therefore also called Vader Piet (Father Piet). However, he was tragically murdered—some speculate at the hands of a slave. For his work and good heart, the area was named after him.

San Nicolas

Of course we can't forget San Nicolas itself. Much like Vader Piet, the origin of the name San Nicolas has so far two different accounts. In the literal sense, "San Nicolas" translates to "Saint Nicolas", leading many to believe that this district was named after a Spanish saint. Though one account does support this with the theory that the district was named after the saint by Spanish colonizers, the other account is much less divine, but does refer to an influential figure in the area.



Nicolaas van der Biest was a successful landowner during the time of the phosphate boom in late 19th century Aruba. Back then, landowners (most, if not all of them men) were referred to as "Shon" by their subordinates. So, the district was originally named after Shon Nicolaas. Over time, the name evolved into what is now San Nicolas.□

Source: "Aruba: Short History" by Dr. J. Hartog.

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Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Soaring through the blue skies Birds of Aruba

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's nature is very diverse and is home to several beautiful and majestic wildlife. Among these is the bright Trupial, whose angelic voice is always heard with the rising sun; the cuddly parakeet, always in company of another, and the majestic Warawara, a mighty bird that can be seen soaring in the clear blue skies.

Trupial

Icterus icterus, or known locally as the Venezuelan or Orange Trupial, is a striking songbird whose bright orange feathers can be spotted from a far distance. Known to be the first bird to sing at the first sign of



sunrise, this beloved songbird likes to wake up with a tune. But don't let their angelic songs fool you; the Trupial can be a bit aggressive towards any threat, protective over their nesting spots—nesting spots they most likely stole from other birds. Trupials can be seen regularly, often in trees or on top of a cactus.

Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez



Prikichi (parakeet)

The Brown-throated Prikichi (Aratinga pertinax) became the national bird of Aruba back in 2015, at the request of Aruba Birdlife Conservation. The bright green, adorable parakeet usually flies in flock of 30 or more, but its population has been declining since the 2010s. Prikichis are a shier breed than the trupial,

often flying away at the sign of any threat. They use termite nests for breeding spots and feed mostly on seeds from the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi tree and fruits.

Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez

Warawara

The Warawara or Caracara is one of the biggest birds found in the Aruban mondi. At a height of 41 to 60 cm, their wingspan can measure up to 125 cm. Known as the "garbage man", this bird of prey mostly feeds on dead animals. Its coat is dark brown, with a cream-colored neck, orange face, thick beak and long legs. The Warawara prefers to build its nest in the middle of tall cacti and pro-



duces a rattling, screaming sound, throwing its head back onto its back while calling.

While these birds are a beautiful sight to behold, it is very important to keep your distance and respect their habitats. This is how we protect our wildlife. By admiring the beauty of Aruba in a safe and respectful manner, we can do our part in protecting our sacred nature. □

Photo Credit: Aruba Birdlife Conservation

Lend a helping hand

Aruba Doet 2025: Aruba's biggest volunteering event!

The beautiful white-sanded beaches, the amazing luxurious resorts and the mouth-watering choice of restaurant dishes are a huge attraction of Aruba that make up for a fantastic vacation. If you would like to add a little local connection to that, next weekend is yours. The biggest volunteer event ARUBA DOET will take place next week Friday and Saturday, May 16th and 17th 2025. You are most welcome to join and roll up your sleeves together with the locals to create some happiness on One Happy Island...Just by doing.

CEDE Aruba, in collaboration with the Oranje Fonds, will be organizing Aruba Doet for the 14th consecutive year. This is another opportunity for social organizations to carry out work or organize social activities for their specific groups with the help of volunteers.

ARUBA DOET started in 2013 under the initiative of the Oranje Fonds. Under names like NL Doet, Aruba Doet, Bon Doet, Cura Doet, Stacia Doet, Saba Doet, and SMX Doet, these six initiatives spotlight volunteer work and encourage everyone to lend a hand for a day. Thus, the

Oranje Fonds, along with thousands of social organizations and partners like CEDE Aruba, organizes the largest volunteer action in the Kingdom.

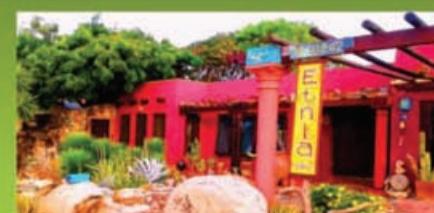
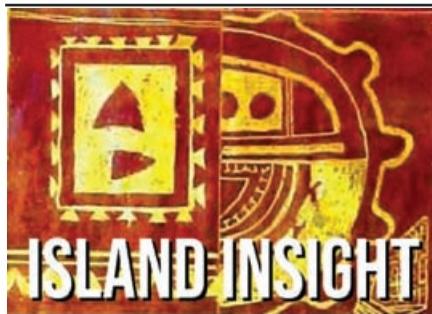
Volunteers are the driving force behind many social organizations. With Aruba Doet, CEDE Aruba and the Oranje Fonds demonstrate how important active citizenship is for the community. Furthermore, ARUBA DOET contributes to the positive image of volunteer work and illustrates how fulfilling it can be.

Since 2021, they had thou-

sands of people volunteering in various projects around the island. In 2024, 3,500 people volunteered in 172 projects on Aruba. Naturally, in 2025, they aim to have even more people actively participating during the days of Aruba Doet.

The Oranje Fonds is the largest fund in the social sector and represents the best of the Kingdom. Each year, the Oranje Fonds invests approximately €30 million in organizations and initiatives that strengthen social ties in the Netherlands and the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. King Willem-Alex-

ander and Queen Máxima are the royal patrons of this fund. Visit www.oranjefonds.nl for more information. CEDE Aruba is an organization that provides support for development and co-financing of programs and projects in the social sector. These programs and projects are introduced and implemented by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In Aruba, there are many NGOs working to improve social facilities for the community. CEDE Aruba assists NGOs with the development and financing of various sustainable projects. Visit www.cedearuba.org for more information. □



Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!

Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



"Fort Zoutman in an Imperial Tug-of-War"

The narrative shared through Etnia Nativa, which means native ethnicity, emphasizes the importance of reclaiming and recognizing the island's cultural roots and heritage, which have often been overshadowed by colonial history. The entity actively engages in promoting the value of rediscovering native traditions, history and identities, while highlighting the importance of moving beyond colonial influences or submissive behavior.

In this episode, we explore the turmoil and shifting power dynamics in Aruba under the imperial shadow. In the early 19th century, the island was on high alert—privateering, foreign schooners, and geopolitical tensions stirred a relentless struggle for sovereignty, all framed by the symbolic presence of Fort Zoutman.

In 1803, as a new war loomed on the horizon, the inhabitants of Aruba waited in anxious anticipation. Among them was Captain Jean Puget, a Frenchman and longtime resident of the island, who soon found himself at the center of a tense maritime incident involving the British or English as they were known. While sailing under the French flag, Puget was confronted by an English vessel. When he refused to lower his ship's colors after a musket shot, a cannon was fired, ending the standoff. Puget was forced to surrender, and his schooner was seized and declared a prize of war.

Puget, however, protested what he considered an act of piracy. He defended his actions on three grounds: he held valid Dutch registration papers; he was sailing on behalf of Curaçao merchants Cancrin and Jutting; and he had departed Curaçao under the Dutch flag, having lived in Aruba for six years.

The schooner was sent to Curaçao, where the dispute was to be resolved, and was brought into port flying the English flag. After a thorough review, the local council declared it unqualified to make a ruling and referred both parties to the French administration in Saint-Domingue. Their reasoning was as follows: Puget was a French subject; he held valid French registration certificates (the Dutch papers recently acquired in Curaçao were merely precautionary); and at the time L'Espérance (his schooner) was confiscated, it



Exploring Cultural Heritage

was sailing under French colors. The schooner remained detained until a verdict could be delivered by the French judges. Meanwhile, letters of marque were issued, and all sailors were summoned to report for service against the English.

One might wonder whether the Dutch warships stationed in Curaçao could have been deployed to secure the waters around the islands. However, it must be remembered that such patrols would not only have encountered privateering schooners but also enemy frigates—vessels the Dutch ships were ill-equipped to confront.

This reality was confirmed months before, by the voyage of the Dutch schooner De Vliegende Visch (Flying Fish). Upon arriving in Aruba, the crew learned that the English fleet had reached the island. At the time, the island was blockaded by sea and besieged by land. Though the schooner attempted to dock, it was ultimately forced to divert to Maracaibo. Regarding the appointment of Aruban commanders, unusual events unfolded during this period. Commanders were dismissed by the Curaçao administration and reappointed by English privateers—or the reverse. Some English names from this time have been preserved.

The English exercised full control. They landed men ashore and ordered the local commander to raise the Union Jack. In many cases, the Aruban commander was not even removed from his post. After a few days, once the English had departed, the Dutch flag was simply raised again.

Although the people of Aruba did not display any warlike zeal, Fort Zoutman was manned with a garrison and armament that Curaçao deemed adequate for the island's defense. In 1804, a notice from the Council of Curaçao made it clear that, should the enemy approach, the island was to immediately deploy the four air rifles stationed at Fort Zoutman to deter them. This fort used to lie on the water's edge. Today it stands over 1000feet on land.□

If you enjoyed reading our stories and are interested in learning more regarding the true identity of the island, we recommend you to book a visit to Etnia Nativa—the only "living museum of its kind in the Caribbean"—a fascinating choice, a trend-setter since 1994 and co-founder of Islands National Park, Archaeological Museum Aruba and Artisan Foundation among others. Etnia Nativa shares valuable knowledge and connects you to the ancient island's spirit and soul.

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or etnianativa03@gmail.com

Episode CCCII - 302

The stories of “Compa Nanzi”

(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as “Compa Nanzi”. Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, “Compa Nanzi” is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the “new world” by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curaçao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king
One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked

back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! “Soldiers, get him!” he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold. “Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!” the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by? “Compadre, listen here!” Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. “What is this?”

“Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see,” Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. “Let me see!” he said.

“Well if you must insist,” Nanzi said, “I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second.” The herder

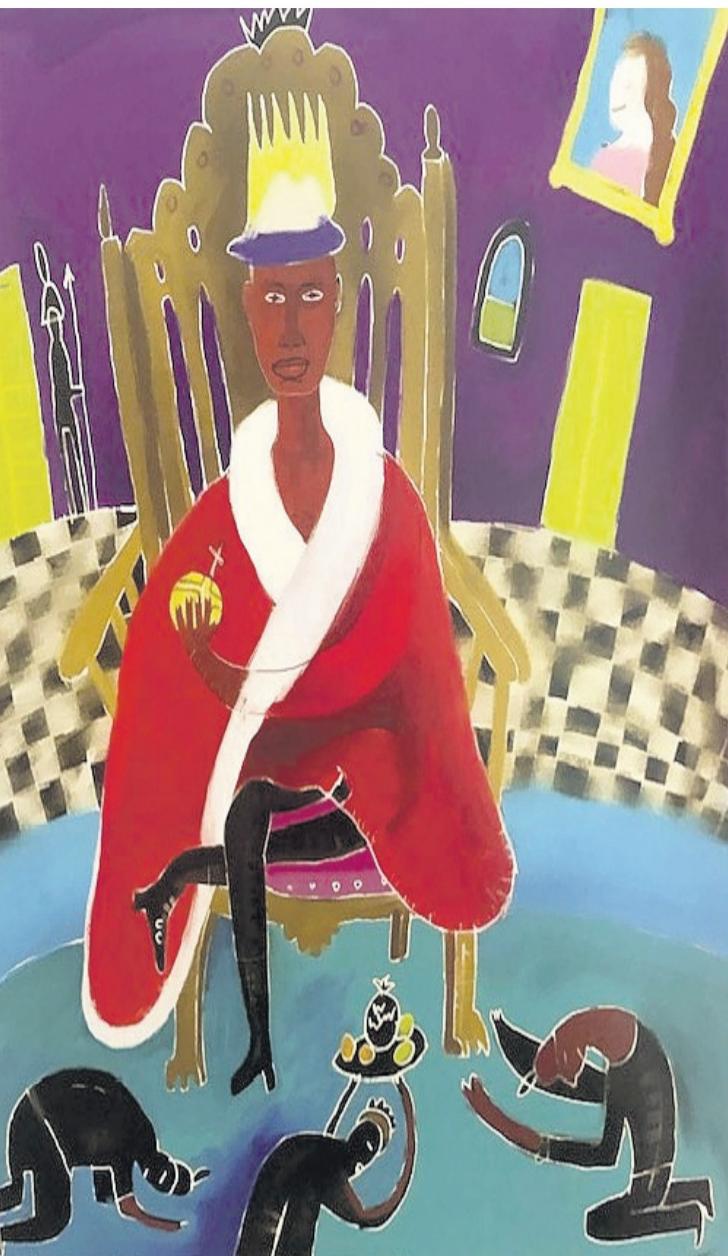
opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi. Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: “This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago.” That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. “Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?”

“I was, Your Majesty,” Nanzi replied. But you know what, there is so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones,” Nanzi told the king.

“What is that you say?” the king was intrigued. “I want to see it too!”

The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's thrown and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king. □

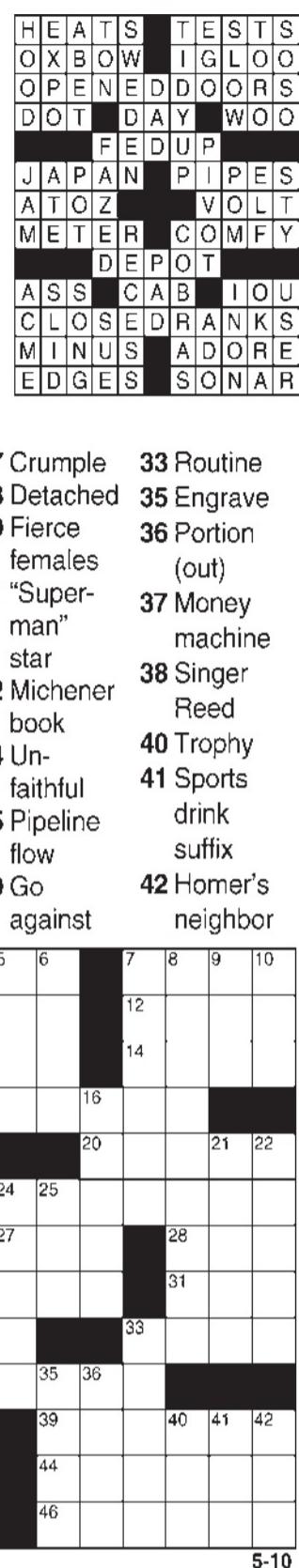


Story and pictures are from “Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)” by Nilda Pinto.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Predica-ment
 - 7 Pindar poems
 - 11 Piled up
 - 12 Latvia's capital
 - 13 Pooh's pal
 - 14 Pop of music
 - 15 Seek, as office
 - 17 Power unit
 - 20 Vigilant
 - 23 2001 Will Smith film
 - 24 Predict
 - 26 Beagle or boxer
 - 27 Objective
 - 28 Kinsey topic
 - 29 Spreads, as a sleeping bag
 - 31 Green of "Casino Royale"
 - 32 Small sounds
 - 33 Calls on
 - 34 Ignores the limit
 - 37 Too
 - 39 Big-billed bird
 - 43 Foot features
 - 44 Painter Monet
 - 45 Artist's inspiration
- DOWN**
- 1 That ship
 - 2 Semi-circular shape
 - 3 Beam of light
 - 4 Left on a liner
 - 5 Llama's land
 - 6 Adam's home
 - 7 Baltimore player
 - 8 Goes off on a tangent
 - 9 Easter quest
 - 10 Put into words
 - 16 Rural busi-nesses
 - 17 Crumple
 - 18 Detached
 - 19 Fierce females
 - 21 "Super-man" star
 - 22 Michener book
 - 24 Un-faithful
 - 25 Pipeline flow
 - 30 Go against
 - 33 Routine
 - 35 Engrave
 - 36 Portion (out)
 - 37 Money machine
 - 38 Singer Reed
 - 40 Trophy
 - 41 Sports drink suffix
 - 42 Homer's neighbor



5-10

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONG FELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-10

CRYPTOQUOTE

IQ WQQN JQLEZ EP GQQ DQIW

FIN IQ CFN JQLEZ EP PVQTG

ZIQRWV. — TQWZT ZCZTG
Cryptoquote: LOOKING BACK, MY
LIFE SEEMS LIKE ONE LONG OBSTACLE RACE,
WITH ME AS THE CHIEF OBSTACLE. — JACK
PAAR

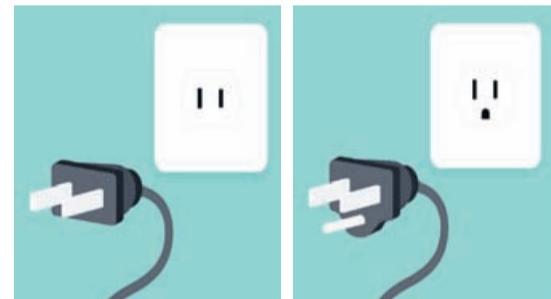
Cruise ship Schedule: May 1 - 11 2025

ARR DEPT BERTH

THU	01	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	09.00	23.00	C	1
SUN	04	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	G	-
TUE	06	CARNIVAL MAGIC	08.00	22.00	C	1
WED	07	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SUN	11	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

What your net worth statement is telling you



This Oct. 24, 2016 file photo shows dollar bills in New York
Associated Press

Amy Arnott of Morningstar. A summary of all your assets and liabilities is a crucial first step toward getting a better handle on your finances. Before you start putting together a net worth spreadsheet, gather as much information as you can to get the best sense of what it can tell you.

Overall net worth (assets minus liabilities)

The ultimate insight from a net worth statement is exactly what it says: the net worth number, which is simply assets minus liabilities. The number in isolation doesn't tell you too much, but it is a useful benchmark to track over time. A negative net worth figure would obviously indicate room for improvement.

Debt ratio

To calculate your debt ratio, you'll need to add

up all required monthly debt payments, including mortgage payments, student loans, auto loans, and credit card debt. Then take the total and divide it by your monthly gross (pre-tax) income. Lower is better for this number, and any number greater than 43% will likely create problems in obtaining or refinancing a mortgage.

Emergency fund

Most financial advisors recommend keeping at least three to six months' worth of monthly living expenses in cash or other low-risk, highly liquid assets to cover a sudden job loss or other unforeseen events, such as car repairs, appliance replacement, or other home repairs. Some investors may want to keep closer to 12 months' worth of expenses in cash if variable

pay makes up a significant portion of their total compensation.

Division of assets between partners

This question normally comes up in the context of divorce, but it can be worth considering for couples who plan to remain married, as well. Depending on your state's estate-tax limits and potential future changes to federal estate-tax laws it can be beneficial for couples to try to balance out the assets owned by each individual. It's also important for each member of a couple to have their own retirement assets.

Allocation of assets among taxable, tax-deferred, and real estate holdings

There's no particular reason why the allocations need to be exactly one third each, but the principle of equitable distribution helps avoid assets that are out of balance in any particular area. □



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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
Paradera: Tel. 588 6638
San Nicolas:
Aloe: Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	
Tel. 588 0002	
FAVI- Visually Impaired	
Tel. 582 5051	
Alcoholics Anonymous	
Tel. 736 2952	
Narcotics Anonymous	
Tel. 583 8989	
Fundacion Contra Violencia	
Relacional Tel. 583 5400	
Centre for Diabetes	
Tel. 524 8888	
Child Abuse Prevention	
Tel. 582 4433	
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672	

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

One Tech Tip: Skype shut down for good, but users still have these alternatives

By KELVIN CHAN
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Skype is dead. What now? Microsoft's shutdown of Skype on May 5 sent millions of users scrambling to find an alternative to the pioneering internet phone service.

Skype, which Microsoft bought in 2011, was beloved by a dwindling group of users who appreciated how it let them make cheap long-distance calls as well as communicate with other users through chat messages, voice or video calls.

Some liked its simplicity and ease of use — an advantage, for example, when setting up a communications app for an elderly parent living far away.

Or they just used it out of habit.

Skype was founded in 2003 and was among the first in a wave of communication services that used voice over internet protocol technology (VoIP), which converts audio into a digital signal. Skype's disappearance also inconveniences Americans and other expatriates living overseas who signed up because they needed an U.S.-based number to receive text authentication codes from, say, a bank back home. It was also handy for calling 800 numbers for free even if you weren't living in North America.

Here is a guide for life after Skype:

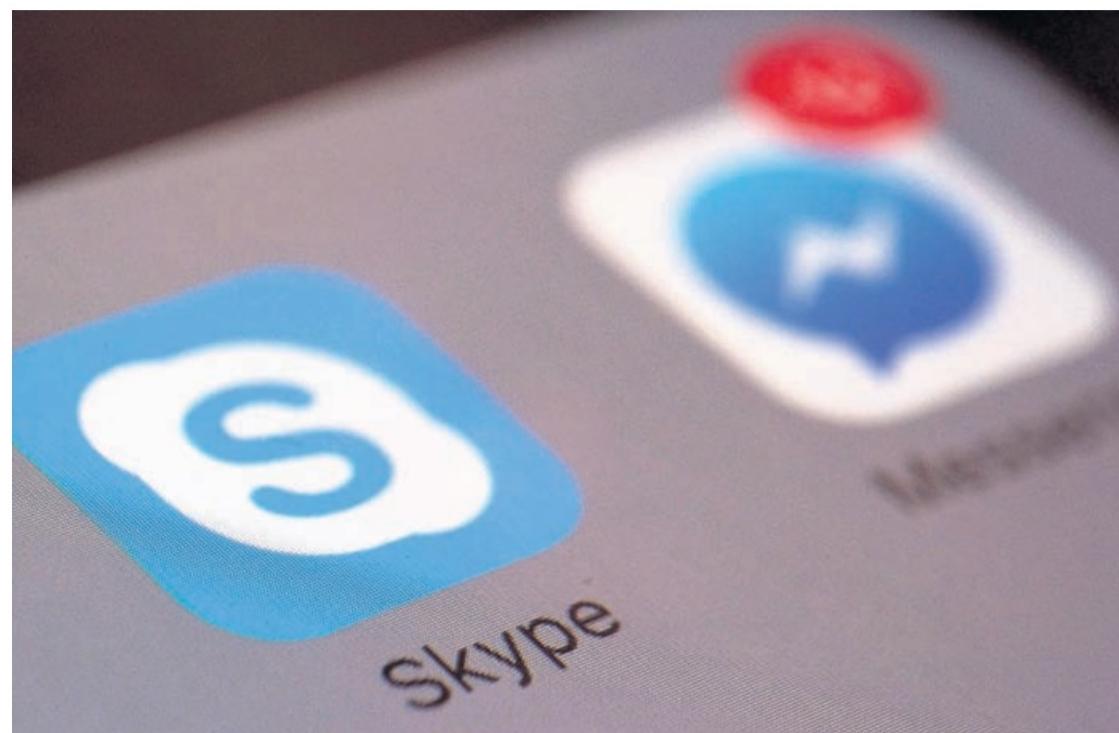
What's happening

Microsoft announced in late February that it was shutting down Skype on May 5 and shifting some of its services to Microsoft Teams, its flagship office videoconferencing and group collaboration platform.

Skype users can use their existing accounts to log into Teams and have the option to automatically migrate their contacts and chats.

If you had a Skype number or a calling subscription, it stopped automatically renewing on April 3.

If your account still has



This photo shows the icon for Microsoft's Skype app on a smartphone in New York, April 9, 2016.

Associated Press

credit, you can access Skype's dial pad from the web portal or Teams to make calls.

Skype numbers won't immediately expire on May 5 so you'll still be able to receive calls until your subscription expires. But you'll have to use Teams or keep the Skype dial pad open on the web portal to receive them.

Porting your number(s)

If your Skype number hasn't expired and you don't want to lose it, you should transfer it to another provider.

Skype numbers can be ported to a phone carrier or any number of other VoIP services. But you'll have to start the process through the new provider, not Skype.

Google Voice

Google users can access the online search giant's internet phone service to make calls from a smartphone or a desktop web browser. You can get your own Google Voice phone number and use features like call forwarding and voicemail. Or you can port your number from another service like Skype, but it will cost \$20.

Calls to U.S., Canadian or Puerto Rican numbers are free. Rates for other countries vary.

The free version of Google Voice is only available to

U.S. residents physically located in the 48 contiguous states, so that means expatriate Americans can only use it if they registered before they moved overseas. "You cannot sign up for a Google Voice number while outside the USA," according to a help page. "Do not try to circumvent this by using a VPN."

Viber

Owned by Japan's Rakuten, Viber was long considered one of the closest competitors to Skype. One key difference is that Skype users don't need a phone number and are identified by their usernames, while Viber users need a number to register for service.

Similar to Skype, Viber users can buy credit or packages to call phone numbers around the world but it's no longer possible to get a Viber number to receive calls.

Zoom

The videoconferencing service that's become a byword for online company meetings offers a calling service, Zoom Phone, and features like number porting and the ability to send and receive SMS text messages.

Take note that Zoom Phone isn't free. There are various calling plans that involve a monthly subscription cost and extra fees for international calls.

Teams

Microsoft users have the option of making calls on Teams, dubbed Teams Phone. Like Zoom Phone, you'll need to buy a subscription and pay extra for international calls.

But it's not an option for regular people because Microsoft says Teams Phone isn't for consumer use and is only available to small and medium-sized businesses.

Wireless Carriers

If you absolutely need a U.S. number but live overseas, sign up for service with a low-cost virtual wireless carrier that offers cheap cellphone plans or pay-as-you-go rates.

One provider, Tello, offers monthly plans for as little as \$5 and says users can activate its service even if they're living outside the U.S.

Because mobile virtual network operators like Tello are essentially wireless phone companies that piggyback off a bigger carrier's physical network, you can't use it to make calls on a computer or an app.

VoIP it

There are a slew of Skype pretenders offering phone calls over the internet, such as Zoiper, VoIP.ms, CallCentric, Mytello, and Virtual Landline. Many are aimed at business users.

Some are capitalizing on Skype's disappearance.

Hushed, which started as an anonymous calling app, bills itself as a Skype alternative. Users can buy a phone number from the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom or Puerto Rico or port their own number.

It warns that some of its numbers aren't guaranteed to work with third-party verification text messages.

"We do not intentionally block anyone from receiving these codes, but it's common that some services will prevent verification texts from being sent to certain phone numbers due to their own security policies," Hushed says on its website.

Park your number

Maybe you can't decide which calling service you want to switch to. If you want to save your current number, there are services to just park your number like NumberBarn.com and Parkmyphone.com.

They let you store a phone number for a monthly fee while relaying any text messages sent to that number. You can port the number to another service whenever you want.

Beware, you can only port in U.S. or Canadian phone numbers.

eSIMs

What about an international eSIM? They're the virtual version of the mobile phone SIM card that you can buy and add to your phone when you're on a trip to save on roaming fees.

They offer cheap data access rates so you can use the internet without worrying about racking up a huge bill when you get home.

Unfortunately, you can't port a Skype number to an international eSIM because of "the fundamental differences" between VoIP services and traditional mobile networks, said Pedro Miquez, co-founder of eSIM provider Holafly. "Skype numbers are not tied to a mobile carrier's physical infrastructure, making them incompatible with mobile eSIM solutions." □

PGA Championship sets the field for the second major of the year, Johnson gets a special invitation

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

The PGA Championship released its field Tuesday for next week at Quail Hollow, leaning heavily on the top 100 in the world ranking and giving full consideration to players from the Saudi-funded LIV Golf League.

The PGA Championship tries to get the top 100 in the world ranking, which won't be the case because No. 24 Billy Horschel announced on social media he will have hip surgery next week.

The PGA Championship is May 15-18 at Quail Hollow in Charlotte, North Carolina. Xander Schauffele is the defending champion and Justin Thomas is the last PGA Championship winner at Quail Hollow in 2017.

LIV Golf will have 16 players in the 156-man field, the same number as last year. That includes John Catlin, a reserve who has played three LIV tournaments this year. He qualified through his Asian Tour performance. Dustin Johnson required a



Tommy Fleetwood practice out of a sand trap on the 16th hole, Tuesday, May 6, 2025, during practice for The Truist Championship golf tournament at the Philadelphia Cricket Club in Flourtown, Pa.

special invitation because the PGA takes the last five winners of the Masters, instead of a Masters champion getting a five-year exemption.

Johnson won the Masters in November 2020 during rescheduling from the CO-

VID-19 pandemic. Among the LIV players getting a spot was Tom McIlroy of Northern Ireland, who joined the rival league this year. He is No. 115 in the world ranking. His lone victory was the European Open in Germany in 2023,

and he spent only two weeks in the top 100 before joining LIV. Also getting special invitations were Joaquin Niemann, a three-time winner on LIV this year, and Sergio Garcia. They were notified months ago. Patrick Reed

Associated Press

sewed up his spot with his third-place finish in the Masters.

The PGA Championship does not have a specific category for the top 100 in the world ranking. It's more an unwritten tradition to fit them under "special invitations."

Unlike the U.S. Open and British Open, the PGA chose not to create a category for LIV. That's similar to the Masters, which can invite players through its special exemptions.

"That's what we have done the last three years and continue to do so," said Kerry Haigh, the championships director for the PGA of America. "We have that flexibility to be able to invite those players who are deserving from whichever tour."

The PGA of America takes the top 70 from PGA points a PGA Tour money list from the last 12 months and then goes beyond that to fill the field. In this case, it did not go beyond the top 70, leaning more on the world ranking. □

Kentucky Derby winner Sovereign won't run in the Preakness, dashing Triple Crown possibility

By STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Sports Writer

Kentucky Derby winner Sovereign will not run in the Preakness Stakes, officials announced Tuesday, meaning there won't be a Triple Crown champion for a seventh consecutive year.

"We received a call today from trainer Bill Mott that Sovereign will not be competing in the Preakness," said Mike Rogers, executive VP of 1/ST Racing, which operates the Preakness. "We extend our congratulations to the connections of Sovereign and respect their decision."

Mott told Preakness officials the plan will be to enter Sovereign in the Belmont Stakes, the third jewel of the Triple Crown, on June 7 at Saratoga

Race Course in upstate New York. Mott on Sunday morning had foreshadowed skipping the Preakness in the name of long-term interests.

"We want to do what's best for the horse," he told reporters at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky. "Of course, you always think about a Triple Crown, and that's not something we're not going to think about."

Sovereign won a muddy Derby with jockey Junior Alvarado at odds of 7-1 by passing favorite Journalism down the stretch.

United Arab Emirates-based Godolphin owns Sovereign. A call and a message sent by The Associated Press to Godolphin's U.S. director of bloodstock, Michael Bahman, were not immedi-

ately returned. This is the fourth time since Justify won all three races in 2018 that the Preakness will go on without a true shot at a Triple Crown. The two-week turnaround from the Kentucky Derby to the Preakness and changes in modern racing have sparked debate around the sport about spacing out the races.

Prominent owner Mike Repole earlier Tuesday posted on social media a proposal to move the Belmont to second in the Triple Crown order, four weeks after the Kentucky Derby and sliding the Preakness back further with the aim of keeping more of the top horses involved.

"The Preakness being run two weeks after the Kentucky Derby, in this new day and age in racing,

shows the lack of vision and leadership needed to evolve this sport," Repole wrote. "I expect the top three finishers of this year's Derby to skip the Preakness and go right to the Belmont."

No decision has been made on second-place finisher Journalism or third-place Baeza for the 150th running of the Preakness, the last at Pimlico Race Course before it is knocked down and rebuilt. □



Sovereign, ridden by Junior Alvarado, crosses the finish line to win the 151st running of the Kentucky Derby horse race at Churchill Downs Saturday, May 3, 2025, in Louisville, Ky.

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GO-KART RENTALS

NBA playoffs are seeing close games become the norm. And there have been some heroic moments, too

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Aaron Gordon went to the postgame interview room after his latest heroic moment for the Denver Nuggets, took a seat with his two nephews on his lap and waited for somebody to say something.

He finally broke the silence. "Any questions?" he asked. Seems about right that he would ask that, given that so far in these NBA playoffs Gordon has been one of the players with all the answers in the biggest moments when games are on the line.

He has become the Mr. Game Winner of these playoffs, with a no-time-left dunk believed to be the first of its kind in postseason history to beat the Los Angeles Clippers in Round 1, then a 3-pointer with 2.8 seconds left to beat the Oklahoma City Thunder on Monday night.

"Did I know it was in? I knew it wasn't a miss," Gordon said of his latest game winner.

And Gordon isn't alone in



Denver Nuggets forward Aaron Gordon shoots during the second half in Game 6 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series against the Los Angeles Clippers, Thursday, May 1, 2025, in Inglewood, Calif.

Associated Press

being part of these down-to-the-wire moments.

Round 2 is just getting underway in the NBA postseason and already there have been 14 games decided by three points or fewer, matching or exceeding the total from each of the last

10 playoff years. The New York Knicks have won five games so far in the playoffs, four of them by three points or fewer.

"We're just going to keep fighting," the Knicks' Mikal Bridges said after the Game 1 win at Boston.

"That's who we are ... and we keep showing it."

This is not normal: So far, 30% of games in this year's playoffs going into Tuesday have been decided by three points or fewer. It's happening about twice as often as it did last season

and about three times as often as it did in other post-season runs over the last decade.

And of those 14 games so far decided by three points or fewer, four of them have had a go-ahead basket in the final 10 seconds. Gordon had two of them with the dunk vs. the Clippers and the 3-pointer vs. the Thunder.

The others: New York's Jalen Brunson hitting a 3-pointer to beat Detroit in Round 1, and Indiana's Tyrese Haliburton getting a layup with 1.4 seconds left in overtime of the Pacers' series-clinching, frantic Game 5 rally in the final moments to oust Milwaukee.

"We got fortunate ... and Ty made a play to win the game," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said that night after Haliburton's winner a play that got overshadowed by an on-court dustup involving, among others, Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo and Haliburton's father. "Fortune favors the bold." □

Champion skier Mikaela Shiffrin joins NWSL Denver's ownership group



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin reacts on the podium after winning the women's slalom at the World Cup Finals, Thursday, March 27, 2025, in Sun Valley, Idaho.

Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Olympic gold medal-winning skier Mikaela Shiffrin has joined the ownership group of the National Women's Soccer League expansion team in Denver, set to launch next year.

Shiffrin, an eight-time world champion and two-time Olympic gold medalist, is the most decorated alpine skier of all time. She is the latest celebrity athlete to invest in an NWSL team. Others run the gamut from NBA star James Harden (Houston Dash) to former NFL quarterback Eli Manning (Gotham FC) to actress Natalie Portman (Angel City).

"I'm beyond thrilled to join the ownership group of Denver NWSL and support some-

thing so meaningful in the community I call home," Shiffrin said in a statement Tuesday. "The sport culture in Colorado is rich and deep, and most notably the growth of women's sports is one of the most exciting movements in our culture today."

Denver was awarded the NWSL's 16th team earlier this year. A club in Boston will join Denver in kicking off next year.

In March, the Denver team's owners unveiled plans for a new downtown soccer stadium. The facility will be only the second purpose-built women's soccer stadium in the league after the Kansas City Current opened CPKC Stadium last year. □